(b) Most part of Tamil Nadu Forests lies in the rain shadow region of the Western Ghats. Hence, these areas received poor rainfall which affects the growth of the vegetation. Forests in Eastern Ghats are also subjected to grazing, forest fires and heavy biotic pressure resulting in poor density of forest cover.

(c) Efforts made by the State and Central Government to enhance the forest cover are given below:-

1. Implementation of Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project (TAP) Phase-II IMPLEMENTED from 2005-2006 till 2012-13 to restore 1.775 lakh hectare of degraded forests in 32 districts over a 8 years span with external aid with an outlay of Rs. 567/- crores.

2. Implementation of Hill Area Development Programme to improve the ecological conditions in the Nilgiris district including protection of shola forests and conservation of wildlife habitats.

3. Western Ghat Development Programme aims at increasing the tree cover and improving the ecosystem of the Tamil Nadu portion of the Western Ghats.

4. Implementation of National Afforestation Programme under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

5. Implementation of a Government of Indiaus new scheme as an additional central assistance for "Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover" under State Plan during 2009-10.

Loans for agriculture based industries

†340. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide subsidy on interest to such agriculture based industries which take loan from banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has held discussion with all the concerned parties in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, Question does not arise.

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† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.